GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3693
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
SIGNING OF REFUGEE AND LANDMINE CONVENTION
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sign Refugee and Landmine Convention;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is pressure on India to sign both conventions by United Nations Human Rights Commission; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) India regards the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as a partial regime that does not take into account conditions of refugee flows in developing countries and does not address questions of mixed flows. As far as the Ottawa Convention on Landmines is concerned, India remains committed to the objective of a non-discriminatory, universal and global ban on anti-personnel landmines, through a phased process that addresses the legitimate defence requirements of States, while ameliorating the critical humanitarian crisis that have resulted from an indiscriminate transfer and use of landmines. India has been an active participant in the 1980 Inhumane Weapons Convention (CCW); and has ratified all its Protocols including Amended Protocol-II on landmines.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.